One cannot make sense of international politics without first acquiring a minimal store of factual information about the world. This course is designed to give students the basic knowledge that is required to understand and analyze political life in the roughly 200 countries of the world. Rather than concentrate on the issues themselves, it provides a conceptual and factual framework for understanding them.

The course is divided into thematic modules of unequal length. The first module explains the birth of the current state system. The second focuses on the states and describes the varieties of states. The third module provides the outlines of the basic ideologies that have inspired political leaders and their followers around the world. The fourth and final module concentrates on political regions in order to acquaint students with the regional dynamics and specificities of the world.

Readings will consist mainly of three textbooks: Andrew Heywood, Political Ideologies, 5th edition (New York: Palgrave, 2012); Patrick H. O’Neil, Essentials of Comparative Politics 4th edition (New York: Norton, 2012); and Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotrowski, The World Since 1945: A History of International Relations, 7th edition (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2009), which are available for purchase at the Boston University Co-op. Maps will be used throughout the lectures. Students are required to attend the lectures regularly, and attendance will be taken into account for calculating the final grade. If a student misses more than three lectures, the course grade will be taken down one level (i.e., from A to A-, or from B+ to B) for every lecture missed without a valid excuse. There will be two midterm and a final exam. The grade will be determined by the following key: midterm exams 30% each, final exam 40%, the final grade being adjusted for missed lectures.

Cell phones and laptops are not allowed in class.

Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. You are expected to provide citations in papers for all quotations, paraphrases, and ideas taken from any source other than your own original thoughts. Boston University has very strict standards for intellectual integrity, and punishment for plagiarism is severe, and can include permanent expulsion from the university. For more on the definition of plagiarism and the standards to which you will be held, see the CAS Academic Conduct Code, available at http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/ or the GRS Academic Conduct Code: http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/forms-policies-procedures/academic-discipline-procedures/
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1: The Genesis of the International System of States

September 6: The Westphalia System
September 8: Colonial Empires and their Impact on the Political Map of the World

Readings:

Week 2: Empires, Nations, States

September 13: States, Nations, Nation-States, Federations
September 15: Parliamentarism versus Presidentialism

Readings:
O’Neil, Essentials of Comparative Politics, chapters 2 and 3.

Week 3: Types of States

September 20: Electoral Systems and Non-Democratic Regimes
September 22: First Midterm

Readings:
O’Neil, Essentials of Comparative Politics, chapters 5 and 6.

Week 4: Modern Ideologies I: the 19th Century

September 27: Nationalism and Liberalism
September 29: Socialism and Marxism

Readings:
Andrew Heywood, Political Ideologies, chapters 2 and 6.

Week 5: Modern Ideologies II: the Left

October 4: Communism and Social Democracy
October 6: Conservatism and Fascism

Readings:
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, Communist Manifesto. Accessible at
Heywood, Political Ideologies, chapters 3, 4, and 7.

Week 6: Modern Ideologies II: the Right

October 11: No class
October 13: The Greens

Heywood, Political Ideologies, chapter 9.
Week 7: Religion and Politics

October 18: State and Church
October 20: Christian Democracy and Religious Fundamentalism

Readings:

Week 8: The Politics of Religion

October 25: Catch up with syllabus
October 27: Second Midterm

Readings:

Week 9: Regions I

November 1: The Western Middle East
November 3: The Eastern Middle East and Central Asia

Readings:

Week 10: Regions II

November 8: Europe and the European Union (guest lecture by Prof. Henrik Selin)
November 10: The Breakdown of Communism (guest lecture by Prof. William Keilor)

Readings:

Week 11: Regions III

November 15: Southeast Asia
November 17: South Asia

Readings:
McWilliams and Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*, chapter s 5, 10 and 16.

Week 12: Regions IV

November 22: East Asia: How to Catch up with the West, I
November 24: No class, thanksgiving

Readings:
Week 13: Regions V

November 29: East Asia: How to Catch up with the West, 2
December 1: Africa

Readings:

Week 14: Regions VI

December 6: Latin America
December 8: Antarctica and Evaluations

Readings: